

U.S. Patent Appln. No. 10/821,837
Amendment dated May 3, 2007

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to FIGS. 1-9, 10A-C and 11A-C. These replacement sheets, which include FIGS. 1-9, 10A-C and 11A-C replace the original sheets including FIGS. 1-9, 10A-C and 11A-C.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have reviewed the Office Action dated November 3, 2006, and submit the following remarks in response thereto. Claims 6, 7, 12-14, 16-19, 25, 26, 32 and 33 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 3, 8, 20, 22 and 27 have been amended. Claims 36-40 have been added. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-5, 8-11, 15, 20-24, 27-31 and 34-40 will remain pending after entry of this amendment. Applicants respectfully request entry of the present amendment and reconsideration of this application.

Drawing Objections

Applicants have submitted herewith replacement sheets including replacement Figs. 1-9, 10A-C and 11A-C. Thus, the drawing objections are rendered moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter with respect to claims 7, 8, 14, 17-19, 26, 27 and 33-35.

Claim Objections

Claims 12 and 13 are objected to because of informalities. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that since only the system is being claimed, reference to “a building” is improper. Applicants note that the building is not being claimed. The reference to the building is merely used to describe a functional aspect of a member received by an apparatus to which a second terminal end of the support members is secured. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-6, 10-13, 15, 16, 20-25 and 28-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Younes (U.S. Patent No. 5,118,217, “Younes”). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Younes in view of Joubert (U.S.

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Patent No. 4,830,543, "Joubert"). These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 20 have been amended to recite features identified as allowable by the Office Action. For example, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 6 and 7 while claim 20 has been amended to incorporate the features of claims 25 and 26. Claims 7 and 26 were identified as allowable by the Office Action. Accordingly, claims 1 and 20 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 7 and 26, respectively.

Claims 2-6, 10-13, 15, 16, 21-25 and 28-32 are dependent on claims 1 and 20, respectively, and are thus allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base independent claim and further in view of the novel and non-obvious features recited therein.

New Claims

Claims 36-40 have been added to place previously dependent claims 14, 17-19 and 33 in independent form and in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or a personal interview will be useful to advance the prosecution of this application and/or place the application in condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone.

The Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733 for any overpayment or necessary fees, including any necessary extension fees or other fees needed to maintain the pendency of this application.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,
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